

In 2005, several state agencies working in the area of teen pregnancy prevention officially recognized parents as the primary educator of their child's abstinence and sexuality education by offering *Talk Early & Talk Often*. This nationally recognized parent education initiative aimed at helping parents of middle school youth talk with their child about abstinence and sexuality has, since its inception, received high praise from parents.

We are offering these workshops again for the 2011/2012 school year. The two-hour workshop will be led by well-trained facilitators who have experience working with parents. The objective of the workshop is to help parents gain knowledge and skills needed to communicate with their child about abstinence and sexuality and provide opportunities to practice communicating about such issues.

All the documents that you need to host a workshop can be found on this website, <a href="www.michigan.gov/talkearly">www.michigan.gov/talkearly</a>. For information on your responsibilities as a host, download the *Responsibilities as a Host* document. If you would like to host a workshop, download and complete the *Request to Host Workshop* form and e-mail it to <a href="teto@michigan.gov">teto@michigan.gov</a>. There is no cost for the workshop; however we ask that you carry out the *Host Site Responsibilities*. We anticipate that workshop slots will fill up quickly, so time is of the essence.

The response to the *Talk Early & Talk Often* initiative has been extremely positive. We have received many calls from the media, parent, school and community groups who are looking forward to participating in this initiative.

Sincerely,

Barbara Flis, Coordinator *Talk Early & Talk Often* Parent Initiative <u>teto@michigan.gov</u> or 248-538-7786